



The Speakers

(Chair) Douglas Armstrong QC

Douglas Armstrong's principal areas of practice cover Planning, Environmental, Property, Local Government, Administrative, Constitutional and Licensing law. He is recognised in Planning magazine's annual survey of planning lawyers as one of the top Queen's Counsel in Scotland.

Graham Dunlop, Advocate

Graham called to the bar in 2009 having previously worked as a solicitor in both local government and private practice. Since calling Graham has been instructed in a number of planning and property disputes, as junior counsel and lead counsel.

James Findlay, Advocate (QC England and Wales)

James Findlay called to the Scottish Bar in 2008, having been a practising Barrister in England & Wales since 1984, taking silk in 2008. James specialises in local government, planning, environment, administrative and licensing law.

Daniel Harrington

Daniel has worked as a Policy Planner at both Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Council. He is currently involved in progressing the Aberdeen Local Development Plan and implementing policy to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions from all new developments.

Jenny Hogan

Jenny is Director of Policy at Scottish Renewables where she leads the organisation's five Policy Managers in influencing the legislative, regulatory and financial framework to deliver the best possible conditions for the growth of the renewables industry.

Robin Holder

Robin has 23 years experience working in the public and private sectors, establishing his own planning consultancy in 2010. HolderPlanning acts for a number of Scotland's leading developers and Robin has planning advisory roles for Homes for Scotland and the Scottish Property Federation.

Nancy Jamieson

Nancy is a group leader in development management at the City of Edinburgh Council, managing a team that deals with a wide range of planning applications. Edinburgh has been pioneering processing agreements and Nancy has been closely involved in these initiatives.

Greg Lloyd

Greg is Head of School of the Built Environment at the University of Ulster. He was Ministerial Adviser to the Northern Ireland Assembly Government on its reform of land use planning (2008-10) and is a member of the Northern Ireland Planning Advisory Forum. Greg is a Patron of Planning Aid Scotland and a regular contributor to the SPEL journal.

Craig McLaren

Craig became National Director of the RTPI in Scotland in January 2011. Prior to this, he spent almost eight years setting up, and then managing, the Scottish Centre for Regeneration (SRC) in the Scottish Government/Communities Scotland, as its Director.

Chris Norman

Chris is Development Management Manager with West Lothian Council and has had over 30 years experience of the assessment of planning applications. For the past three years he has chaired the Development Management Sub Committee of Heads of Planning Scotland (HoPS).

Professor Colin Reid

Colin joined the University of Dundee in 1991 and has been Professor of Environmental Law since 1995. He has written widely on environmental issues, including a book on Nature Conservation Law (3rd ed, 2009), and recent work on the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

Dr Mark Robertson

Mark is a Partner with Ryden, Scotland's largest property consultancy where he heads the firm's market-leading Consulting Group. Mark is a leading authority on Scotland's property markets and his consultancy work includes market analysis and forecasts for more than 200 projects such as the Clyde Waterfront, Edinburgh Waterfront, West Edinburgh Planning Framework and Ravenscraig.

Andrew Robinson

Andrew is a Chartered Town Planner with 40 years professional experience, first in Local Government (1969-1974) and the former Scottish Development (1974-82), and then running his own Consultancy. He founded Robinson Associates in 1992.

Andrew Sierakowski

Andrew Sierakowski is a Chartered Planner specialising in minerals, waste and energy planning with 20 years experience in UK Local Authority planning and consultancy. Andrew heads up the planning team for Golder Associates UK Limited.

Clare Symonds

Clare is the founder and Chair of Planning Democracy, a charity established in 2009, with the aim of strengthening democracy by promoting participation in the planning system. She has been recognised in the Scottish Sustainable Development Forum's Green List for her work to improve community engagement in Scottish planning.

David Wardrop

David spent many years in policy and development control whilst in the public sector before entering private practice in 2005. He deals with all aspects of planning proposals through both the development plan and development management processes across Scotland.

The SPEL Conference 2011

Thursday 8 September, Edinburgh

The Mackenzie Building, Old Assembly Close, 172 High Street, Edinburgh



Changing Policy and Practice in a New Planning Era



SPEL 2011

SPEL

Conference

2011

It is 2011 – four years since the onset of the credit crunch and beginning of the deepest recession in living memory, and three years or so since the provisions of the most radical shake up of the planning system since 1947 began to be rolled out in Scotland. During this period, we have also witnessed increasingly ambitious targets associated with the climate change agenda, and more stringent assessments for environmental protection.

As practitioners, developers and other stakeholders grapple with new policies and practice, the economic turbulence continues, and the planning system and ‘town hall’ planners have come in for increasing criticism from some quarters.

The Conference brings together a line up of expert speakers to review key, topical issues and to encourage high level discussion and debate.

programme

09.00 Registration and coffee

09.50 Chair's Welcome and Introduction
Douglas Armstrong QC, Terra Firma Chambers

10.00 The New Planning System: Firing on all Cylinders?
Panel discussion looking at issues such as: operation of Local Review Bodies; changes to the appeal system – removal of right to a hearing and the prohibition against the introduction of new evidence; the operation of Scottish Planning Policy; development management issues; and community engagement.

Chair: David Wardrop, Partner, Montgomery Forgan Associates (approached)
Chris Norman, Planning Manager, West Lothian Council
Clare Symonds, Planning Democracy
Other contributors representing key agencies and the development industry.

11.00 Refreshments

11.20 Climate Change Challenges: the Zero Carbon Economy
A review of waste disposal and waste to energy matters; how the planning system can address the zero carbon agenda; and an update on renewable energy issues.

Dealing with Waste and Waste to Energy
Andrew Sierakowski, Senior Minerals and Waste Planner, Golder Associates (UK) Ltd

Developing Planning Policies for Carbon Reduction
Daniel Harrington, Policy Planner, Aberdeen City Council

Challenges for Renewable Energy
Jenny Hogan, Director of Policy, Scottish Renewables

12.20 Protective Expenses : an Encouragement for Legal Challenge by Objectors?

James Findlay QC, Terra Firma Chambers

Explores the capping of liabilities in judicial review and the potential expansion of opportunities for judicial review.

12.45 Lunch

13.45 Changing Policy and Practice throughout the UK
Professor Greg Lloyd, Head of School of the Build Environment, University of Ulster

14.10 Planning Case Law Update
Graham Dunlop, Terra Firma Chambers

14.30 Delivering Development and Infrastructure
Session looking at processing major planning applications and how planning authorities and developers are responding to the new legislation and approaches to public participation, speeding up decisions and improving quality; the development industry and post-crash public sector funding;

Developer Response to New Planning Legislation – Speeding up the Process
Robin Holder, Director, HolderPlanning

Edinburgh's Planning Concordat – Pioneering Processing Agreements
Nancy Jamieson, Group Leader Development Management, The City of Edinburgh Council

Funding Public Sector Infrastructure after the Credit Crunch
Dr Mark Robertson, Partner and Head of Consulting, Ryden LLP

15.30 Refreshments

15.45 Nature Conservation – too restrictive?
Professor Colin Reid, University of Dundee (tbc)

16.15 Reflections Past and Present
Andrew Robinson, Principal, Robinson Associates
Craig McLaren, National Director, RTPI in Scotland

16.45 Concluding Remarks and Close of Conference